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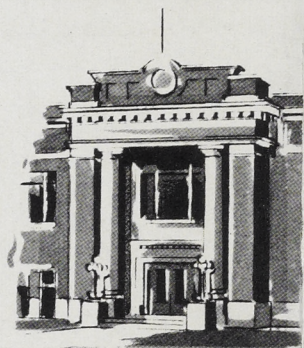
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THE FIRST

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1909 | 1959

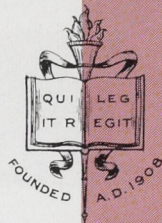
This booklet was especially prepared to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the Regina Public Library and to pay tribute to the trustees and staff who have guided the library through its first fifty years.

1909-1959

It has been impossible to list the names of the many staff members who have served the library over the years. Their fine contribution has been largely responsible for the development of the present library system and is a tribute to them.

CHIEF LIBRARIANS

Mr. J. R. C. Honeyman	1908-36
Miss Frederica B. Armstrong	1936-40
Dr. C. C. Lingard	1940-45
Mr. C. D. Kent	1945-48
Miss Marjorie R. Dunlop	1948-



THE FIRST LIBRARY BOARD

Rev. Canon G. C. Hill—Chairman

Alderman T. Wilkinson

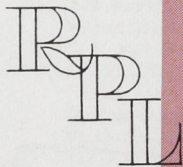
J. F. L. Embury, Esq.

A. M. Fenwick, Esq.

S. C. Burton, Esq.

John McCarthy, Esq.

His Worship, Mayor J. W. Smith,
Ex-Officio.



The Regina Public Library Board / 1959

J. R. A. Pollard, Chairman.

L. McK. Robinson, Q.C.,
Deputy-Chairman,
Chairman of Salary and Personnel
Committee.

F. B. Bagshaw, O.B.E., Q.C.,
Chairman of Book Committee,
Chairman of Special Committees:
Pensions, Library Legislation
and Grants.

Mrs. E. N. Davis,
Chairman of Library Expansion
Committee, Chairman of Special
Committees: Jubilee and Canadian
Library Week.

A. T. Little,
Chairman of Finance Committee.

Thomas P. Hayes,
Chairman of Property Committee.

His Worship, Mayor H. H. P. Baker,
Ex-Officio.

THESE PUBLIC SPIRITED CITIZENS SERVED ON REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARDS FROM 1909 TO 1959

Andrews, Dr. W. W. (Chairman 1917-18)

Armstrong, H. E.

Bagshaw, F. B.

Baker, H. H. P. (Mayor 1959-)

Balfour, James (Mayor 1915, 1931)

Barr, G. H.

Black, Henry (Mayor 1918-19)

Black, Dr. N. F.

Bothwell, A. M.

Bothwell, Mrs. A. M.

Boyd, Hugh

Bradley, Rev. Father G. F.

Brown, G. W.

Burton, S. C. (Mayor 1923-24)

Cathro, Miss E. Don

Coldwell, M. J.

Cowan, Dr. W. D. (Mayor 1916-17)

Cowburn, T. H. (Mayor 1957-58)

Cushing, George

Darke, F. N.

Davis, Mrs. E. N.

Denny, Dr. J. D.

Doxsee, J. E. R.

Eddy, J. W. S.

Ellison, A. C. (Mayor 1936-39)

Embury, J. F. L.

England, F. G.

Fenwick, A. M.

Fere, Rev. Father G.

Fines, C. M.

Froom, A. C.

Fyfe, C. T.

Gorrell, Dr. A. S.

Grant, G. B. (Mayor 1952-53)

Grassick, James (Mayor 1920-22, 1940-41)

Hammond, L. H. (Mayor 1954-56)

Hayes, Thomas P.

Hill, Rev. Canon G. C. (Chairman 1908/9-17)

Humphries, A. E.

Kelly, R. N.

Lang, Hector

Leslie, E. C.

Little, A. T.

McAra, James (Mayor 1927-30, 1932-33)

McAra, Peter (Mayor 1911-12)

McCallum, E. D.

McCarthy, John

McDaniel, B. J.

McGillivray, Hugh (Mayor 1947-48)

MacLennan, J.

MacMurchy, Norman

MISS E. DON CATHRO.

the first woman to be appointed to any civic board, was appointed to the Regina Public Library Board in 1917.

MRS. ASHLEY M. WALKER

was elected Chairman of the Regina Public Library Board in 1948, serving three years—the first and only woman to have held this office.

McMurchy, R. D.

McNall, T. G. (Mayor 1945-46)

Marshall, W. F.

Martin, Robert (Mayor 1913-14)

Mason, W. E. (Mayor 1925-26)

Menzies, G. N. (Mayor 1949-51,

Chairman 1946-47)

Neatby, Dr. Hilda

Neely, Mrs. R. W.

Nivins, Charles (Chairman 1919)

Noonan, J. D.

Pollard, J. R. A. (Chairman 1951-)

Pool, A. W.

Reilly, F. B. (Chairman 1920-42)

Rink, Cornelius (Mayor 1934-35)

Robinson, L. McK.

Rosenberg, Louis

Smith, Dr. A. Gregor

Smith, J. J. (Chairman 1943-45)

Smith, J. W. (Mayor 1908)

Trant, William

Walker, Mrs. A. M. (Chairman 1948-50)

Wilkinson, T.

Williams, C. C. (Mayor 1942-44)

Williams, R. H. (Mayor 1909-10)

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

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THE LIBRARY STORY

BY J. R. BOTHWELL



REV. G. C. HILL
Chairman of the Board
1909



J. R. C. HONEYMAN
Librarian
and Secretary-Treasurer
1909

REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE was celebrated in 1959; half a century of service! Jubilee means "time of restoration"; how appropriate when hopes are high for the new library which the citizens so eagerly await.

A history of a library, a mere chronicle of events, must always be inadequate for its benefits are intangible. A successful stock company can jubilantly announce its dividends, but who can equate the dividends of a library, physical, mental and spiritual as they are. And what other institution in Regina serves every member of the family—"Something for everyone" might well be its slogan.

To the City Council of 1908 who appointed the first Regina Public Library Board, "honour, all honour to their names." With a population of only 10,000, and many clamouring for further developments to promote business interests, this early Council recognized that here was a challenge to their intelligence, and to their awareness of what was a "first" in the needs of the people. They even offered free accommodation in the then new City Hall until a site was acquired for a suitable building.

IT WAS ON a blustery March night (27th) in the year 1908 that the first meeting of the Regina Public Library Board was held. A perusal of the minutes of that historical meeting, and those following over fifty years, is a revelation of the debt owed to Board members for their devoted attention and intelligent, wise guidance. Mayor J. W. Smith and Alderman T. Wilkinson represented the City Council; Rev. G. C. Hill (later Canon) was appointed Chairman, and so continued until his retirement in 1917. The other members, whose diversity of interests showed the wisdom of the Council's choice, were: J. F. L. Embury, lawyer; A. M. Fenwick, educationist; and S. C. Burton and John McCarthy, businessmen. First committees named were: Finance, Fixtures, Books and Property. Eight thousand dollars was asked for book purchases. The position of Librarian had been advertised; J. R. C. Honeyman, a former provincial civil servant, a cultured Englishman, was appointed at a salary of \$1,000 a year.

601310



Office and Reference
Library—City Hall, 1909



Reading Room—City Hall, 1909

The first book purchases were three volumes of the works of George Eliot, which are still in the stacks of the Albert Branch, and are numbered 1, 2 and 3. Regina Directory (1907) was purchased in October, 1908. The most popular books in those early years included four Canadian writers:

Sowing Seeds in Danny—Nellie McClung.

The Weavers—Gilbert Parker.

Canada, Empire of the North—Agnes Laut.

Songs of a Sourdough, and Ballads of a Checkako—R. W. Service.

One of Mary R. Rhinehart's first mysteries, *Man in Lower Ten*, was a great favorite, as were *Trail of the Lonesome Pine* by John Fox, Jr., and Rex Beach's, *The Barrier and The Silver Horde*. The "best sellers" of those early years were in great demand. Though we may now question their literary value, how absorbing they were to read on a long wintry evening, without benefit of radio or television. The now overdone theme of sex was non-existent, but adventure stories and the triumph of right over wrong, appeared in *The Winning of Barbara Worth* by Harold Bell Wright; *The Rosary* by F. L. Barclay; and *The Harvester* by Gene Stratton-Porter. And there was also the charming little book, *Molly-Make-Believe* by E. Abbott.

FOR THE FIRST YEAR of operation, in the upper floor of the City Hall, the number of books loaned for home reading was 33,562; amazing when the city's population was only a bare 10,000. And a tribute to the City Council of 1908 who, while recognizing their responsibility to the expansion of Regina as a whole, realized that "food for the mind" contributed to the contentment and development of a thriving, progressive people.

This increase in circulation was indicated by an item in the minutes of November 12th, 1908, when the Librarian was instructed to advertise for a "lady" librarian assistant at a salary of \$50.00 per month. Requirements as to qualifications were that she should possess a second-class, non-professional certificate. Nineteen applications were received, and the choice was Miss Dora Dodd, daughter of Dr. Dodd of N.W.M.P. Barracks.

THE FAR-SIGHTEDNESS of this early Board is demonstrated by the fact that as early as August, 1908, they requested City Council to negotiate for a suitable site, centrally located, upon which to build a Public Library. After much negotiation, the site of the present Central Library was selected. The Board then contacted Andrew Carnegie, philanthropist, in an effort to have Regina benefit from his generous gifts to these institutions. After much correspondence, and a visit from his representative, the gift of \$50,000 was received. On May 11th, 1912, the new Library was opened with suitable ceremonies and grateful appreciation. But rejoicing was brief; on June 30th, 1912, the building was severely damaged by Regina's first and only cyclone. Many books were beyond repair, but the building itself could be restored. Rev. G. C. Hill, who was in eastern Canada, made a personal call on the representative of the Carnegie Foundation in New York, and was so successful in presenting the case of the afflicted city, that a further grant of \$10,000 was made.

Patience must indeed be a virtue possessed by Library Board members and staff, as well as citizens generally, for in January, 1930 (thirty years ago), the then Librarian, J. R. C. Honeyman, in his report recommended that:

"As it would be quite impossible to handle the work connected with the increasing circulation in our present plant, the Board request the City Council to provide an entirely new up-to-date Central Library and Administration Building, equipped with the latest facilities for handling the work. This should be designed by an architect who has made a particular study of the designing of modern libraries."

To provide for this, the Librarian suggested that the present Central Library be turned over to the city at a valuation, the building to be used either as an art gallery or museum. The year 1940 was given as the limit in which partially adequate services could be carried on in the present library.

TO RELIEVE PRESSURE at the Central Library and to accommodate residents in the outlying areas, the first two branch libraries were opened in 1913.

Eastern Branch was located on Market Square in a frame building which had been moved from the front yard of the old C.P.R. station on South Railway Street. It had served the "boom days" Board of Trade as an information center and will be remembered as the building in front of which the White Line street cars of the then

new Regina Municipal Railway looped back from the station to Eleventh Avenue.

The second branch, Albert, was built near Robinson Street on Eighth Avenue.

In 1919 Scott Branch was opened at Sixth Avenue and Scott (now Broder) Street, in a rented frame house without plumbing and heated by a coal stove. In winter ink froze in the ink wells!

The next year saw Eastern Branch building, which had been closed since 1918 while service was continued from Central, moved from Market Square to Winnipeg Street and Thirteenth Avenue. It was re-named Prince of Wales. Later this building was moved to Broder Street and Fourteenth Avenue, its present resting place after service on four different locations and three movings.

To serve the residents of the city's north-east and to better serve the growing population in the north-west, the frame building which housed Albert Branch was moved in 1927 to Wallace Street and Fourth Avenue and renamed Eastview. A new and larger brick building was then erected for Albert Branch on the old site.

Three years later in 1930 Connaught Branch was built at Elphinstone Street and Thirteenth Avenue.

After the cyclone, June 30, 1912



Main Reading Room—Central Library, 1912



Mrs. N. A. Douglas, Eastview Branch, 1925



IT WAS IN 1914 that a Music Lending Section was added, with the co-operation of the Women's Musical Club; songs, oratorios, operas and symphonies being included. These were a foundation of the collection later added to the Reference Department when the noted musician, F. W. Laubach, was appointed its Librarian in 1917. That year also saw the appointment to the Board of its first woman member (the first woman to be appointed to any civic board), Miss E. D. Cathro, M.A. Her own culture and her experience as a teacher at Regina Collegiate, where she was conversant with the needs of the students, made her a most valued member. Of interest was one item in the minutes of a meeting in 1918, when there was a discussion as to whether they were justified in installing a telephone in the Reference Department. They decided to undertake the expense and the inquiries increased overwhelmingly. In 1919 there was again a greatly increased number of inquiries, and of almost as varied a nature as now, though perhaps not of such startling significance as that was before the atom bomb and space ship era to intrigue the inquiring mind.

THE OXFORD DICTIONARY describes a library as, "A place set apart to contain books for reading, study and reference. Such books contain a great mass of erudition, and objects of study; a source upon which a person depends for instruction." How limited seems this traditional meaning compared to the functions of today's modern Library; how amazing that the Regina Public Library has been able to expand its services in accordance with this new concept, in spite of serious handicaps. As one reviews these records of fifty years, the full significance of its contribution to our lives, and to the lives of our children, is realized. Books for the thinkers, stories for the adventurous, music for those who crave it; films for the bored, and the beauty of art for those who seek it. And at a bargain that out-classes even the modern super market; for every \$100 of your taxable property your library costs you only 21 cents yearly. Ponder that when you are reckoning your expenditures. A bargain indeed, with a bonus for every member of the family. And here you are free to

make exchanges—a jaded stale mind for renewed faith in the future; the inspiration of the great through literature, music and art.

TO J. R. C. HONEYMAN, its first Librarian, whose faith in the growth of Regina, and in the calibre of its residents, was demonstrated when thirty years ago, he recommended that an entirely new and up-to-date Central Library should be built, honour was paid by the Board in its fiftieth anniversary year when they established a scholarship in his memory. This \$1,000 loan scholarship is to be made available in 1960-61 for training in Library Science. And now that such a building is being contemplated one remembers with pride the gallant effort that has been made to keep pace with a rapidly growing population, and an intensified awareness of the treasures it contains to give buoyancy and enthusiasm to life. Tennyson's, "I will bury myself in books and the Devil may pipe to his own" would not apply to the modern library services being given in spite of the fact of a building and equipment of the 1912 vintage.

IT WAS IN 1946 that films and records were introduced, and these have proved popular attractions, 2,036 films being loaned in 1959. The Library is a member of the Southern Saskatchewan Federation of Film Councils, while the Regina Film Council holds two memberships; a valuable means of sharing in a variety of films. Film showings in the Library have also given delightful entertainment to many. Music lovers have availed themselves of the fine records available, 11,437 having been loaned in the past year. To give pleasure to those who have free time at the noon hour, record concerts were arranged, while in the summer months many paused in beautiful Victoria Park to relax and enjoy the music contributed by the library.

A fine example of co-operation with other city facilities is that established with the Norman MacKenzie Art Gallery, Saskatchewan Arts Board, and the Western Canada Art Circuit which is the library's chief source of art exhibits. Prints of famous paintings from the reference files are continually shown in the lobby and on bulletin

boards in the Reference Department, and also at Albert and Connaught branches. These are a source of joy to many and help dispel the idea that a library is simply a storehouse of dusty, musty books.

THE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT, even with its shockingly inadequate space and equipment, has an unsurpassed record of any library with which we are familiar, for answering inquiries, and how varied they are! Here on any busy day is a cross-section of our people — businessmen, teachers, students, club women; some gay, some garrulous, but all receive courteous attention from one of the “Miss-Know-it-alls”, as one of the constant patrons described a staff member. If any reluctant tax-payer, or elected official, is in doubt about the practical returns from this library, let him visit this department, and he will see Regina voters and their progeny delving deep into this storehouse of knowledge. Their only complaint is the overcrowded condition. In an article written many years ago by a Regina scholar on the “periodicals in the Public Library”, we discovered this conclusion:

“And I have only begun to tell of the wealth of interest, of beauty, of fine feeling, as well as more prosaic information which is at anyone’s command by simply strolling into the Library, selecting a periodical from the shelves, and forgetting dull care for a time, losing oneself in the pages.”

As well as providing this relaxation, there were 12,865 curious citizens who last year queried the Reference Department; think what that means in delving into books, clippings, magazines, newspapers, maps and atlases, pamphlets and pictures! 23,879 books alone were used in this service, and 22,060 items among the other reference material consulted.

“BOOKS, a finer world within a world” — here we have them in the Circulation Department. Statistics are usually bloodless, heartless figures, but when we read from Miss Marjorie Dunlop’s 1959 report as Chief Librarian, it inspires us to say “Hats



*Prince of Wales Branch,
Broder St. and 14th Ave.*



*Albert Branch,
Robinson St. and 8th Ave.*



*Central Library,
1920 Lorne St.*

REGINA LIBRARIES



*Eastview Branch,
Wallace St. and 4th Ave.*



*Connaught Branch,
Elphinstone St. and 13th Ave.*



off" to this department; out of this antiquated relic of 1912, a total of 188,482 adult books were borrowed. The proportion of non-fiction books was 42 per cent of the total; books on Fine Arts, Useful Arts, Biography and History were in greatest demand — a sign that many citizens of an inquiring contemplative mind find here inspiration and information for today's troublesome times. And did you ever think of the selection of these books, the choices to be made between the gold and the dross? Remember this, and the discriminating advice from a highly qualified book committee, when you are picking out your next book.

AND THE CATALOGUE DEPARTMENT, so often unheralded and unsung — here is where so much important behind-the-scenes work goes on. Follow the route taken by a book when it comes from the publisher before it is in the stacks, ready for you the borrower; you will be surprised at the knowledge, the skill, and patience involved, especially with a book collection that has grown during the past few years from 52,000 to nearly 125,000. Here all books are processed also for the various branch libraries, and also for the rapidly growing booktrailer services.

"CALLING ALL PARENTS" should be the slogan for the Boys and Girls Department for this appeals to all, be they cynical or enthusiastic. "Read me a story" has been the age-old plea of childhood, and here is one of the most delightful and rewarding collections of which one could dream. A Book Fair, visits by the Children's Librarian to various school classes, all these have added to the joy and understanding of these, your children. Only one regrettable change marred this department when its Central Library collection was moved to the main floor of the Connaught Branch, with the adult department being moved to the basement. With great regret, this was necessitated by the overcrowded conditions at Central, the Catalogue Department taking over the vacated space. One of the cherished sights of a week-end was to see the parents at Central Library selecting their books while their children, with radiant faces, clasped their own little treasures. Perhaps something important has been lost here; children have long memories, and going with Daddy and Mummy to get their books too may be one of those early impressions never forgotten. So it is as a united family again, they look forward to the spacious rooms for the "Land-of-Make-Believe" in the new library.

Circulation Desk, 1959



South Reading Room, 1959



In 1909 when 12,000 was the Regina population figure, 1,702 citizens borrowed 33,562 books from the library. The staff numbered 2.

In 1959 when 102,000 was the population figure, 29,405 citizens borrowed 585,242 books. The staff numbered 40.

WITH COURAGE AND VISION, it was decided that, even lacking proper facilities at the main library, no citizen should be deprived of the stimulant and entertainment of books, so in 1954 the first Booktrailer was purchased; in 1956 the Eastview Branch was closed and the community given Booktrailer service from a stop at Haultain School. In 1957 a second Booktrailer was put into service, followed in 1959 by a third.

How justified they were in these decisions is shown by the fact that in 1959 the trailers circulated 60% of all the books circulated by the entire library system. Trailer No. 3 enabled a re-arrangement of the scheduled stops, lengthening hours at three busy locations, and adding a new stop for the children of the city center. The trailers now give service to thirteen widely separated areas of the City. Total book circulation by all the Booktrailers was 196,064 in 1959.

The very fine community spirit engendered by the Board and Staff was evidenced in publicizing various projects, such as Young Canada's Book Week, Canadian Library Week, and the Library's Golden Jubilee; the Superintendents and staff of the Public and Separate Schools were particularly helpful and enthusiastic in the celebration of Young Canada's Book Week.

THE PRACTICAL TAXPAYER may inquire as to what comparison there is between Regina's total assessment, and that for public libraries. For the year 1959 the total assessment was 72 mills, while for public library for the same year it was 2.10 mills, again emphasizing the fact that for every \$100 of your taxable property your library costs you only 21 cents. All this for perhaps a coke and a comic book—yours is the choice. If you are statistically minded, read those in the report of the Chief Librarian for 1959; almost as thrilling as watching stock market reports, but here is something that never wavers, a substantial cost-of-living bonus towards a fuller, more exhilarating life. Here is the estimate of Dr. George H. Locke of Toronto, one of Canada's famous men, of the influence of a library:

"The pride of a library is not mere possession of books, but rather the explanation of the significance of these treasures. The Library makes possible the satisfying of the desires of the spirit, and should be the proudest possession of a city, a province, a nation."

SURVEYS ARE the order of the day so we initiated one of our own, interviewing especially recent residents who had lived in cities with modern, generously endowed libraries. In every case, the service they received here was highly praised, as was the standard of books and periodicals supplied, but the lack of modern equipment to which they had been used was criticized, and of some secluded spots where a researcher or student could work undisturbed. One frank woman exclaimed: "And the stuffiness of that Reference Room, I don't see how the girls stand it; sometimes we're all packed in like sardines with some people just putting in time, and noisily leafing through magazines which is most distracting to anyone working on an important project. New Library! I should think so — Regina should provide at least some of the facilities to which we were used in Eastern centres; the schools here are excellent but the library is distinctly inadequate."

The roll of honour of members of Boards through this half century reveals names of many distinguished Canadians, but all gave distinctive and unselfish service to the progress of this library, and those who are still with us must feel great satisfaction in the contemplated expansion of the service to which they gave much wise devotion.

In a mere "Capsule Comment" such as this, only a fragmentary sketch is possible, but memories persist of mysterious "Vacation" libraries filled with treasures for each of the family — classics, adventure stories, and the never-to-be-forgotten Christopher Robin which still delights the grandchildren of those early borrowers.

Of the ever devoted and competent staff there is nothing but high acclaim; when salaries were quite inadequate their service was



on the same high level as today. And the familiar complaint as to the "high cost" of everything, have you ever thought that it also applies to library supplies, books, periodicals, etc. A 50% increase in the cost of book purchases is something which vitally affects the budget; you may be reading a \$6.50 book for "free" — surely a consideration in these days of rising prices.

LIBRARIANS ARE NO LONGER the "absent-minded professor" of ancient days; now libraries reflect truly the current events of a nation; here are Government documents, commission reports, statistics for the businessman; source material for the research student, and what a godsend to the club woman who has been chosen to give a paper on "Foreign Affairs" about which she may be rather hazy. Expert classification and cataloguing make readily available its intellectual riches. What a challenge to the alert Librarian is today's ever-changing scene — and how these changes are depicted on the Regina Public Library Bulletin Board; a businessman told us that he had changed his walking route home so that he might relish these pictorial displays of current events.

And an educationist whom we contacted when asked his opinion on these "story hours" for children, many of whom are "New Canadians", declared that these were more effective than all the elaborate schemes of Canadianization ever mooted. He quoted the words of a wise man: "Give me the children to mould, and I'll make a great nation."

WE VISITED SOME of our Senior Citizens to whom life does not offer much variety, owing to both health and circumstance, to find out what, if anything the Public Library meant to them. How deeply moved one was to hear what the reading of magazines there contributed to their limited lives, since they could not now afford their own; and how, whichever one of them was feeling well enough that day would go to the library to exchange their books; biography and history were their favorites. How touched we were when from a cherished scrapbook they produced an article long since written; they had kept it for Emily Dickenson's poem which they said was their own experience.

"He ate and drank the precious words,
His spirit grew robust;
He knew no more that he was poor,
Nor that his frame was dust.
He danced along the dingy days,
And this bequest of wings
Was but a book. What liberty
A loosened spirit brings!"

—Emily Dickinson.

WORTH WHILE? A little increase in taxes, but new space, new vistas, new "adventures of the mind" for our fine Regina citizens.

CENTRAL BUILDING

Many changes have been made over the years in the arrangement of the Central building, in a frantic effort to meet the growing demand for services. The reference department, accommodated in the 1911 building in a small annex close to circulation, was moved into the meeting room downstairs. Later it was moved upstairs into what had been the ladies' reading room and the main reading room. The room vacated by reference was used for a meeting room and art gallery. As circulation grew this department took over one of the rooms used by reference and 6,000 books were stored in the basement of the branch libraries. The catalogue department was moved downstairs into what had been the repair room. This was done to provide a staff workroom for circulation. A section of the children's room was used to enlarge the catalogue department. When a bunker fuel oil heating system was installed, the coal bin was converted to make a further extension to the catalogue department. Space originally used as living quarters for the caretaker was converted into a repair department and later served as a staff lounge and room for bound newspapers and for record-playing equipment. Finally bound newspapers had to be discarded and the space used for staff lockers. Two areas were partitioned off the meeting room to provide space for films, back files of periodicals and staff lockers. Cupboards were built all around the back hall and under the stairs to provide space for back files of reference annuals, Canadiana and periodicals. Offices for Treasurer and Assistant Chief Librarian were made by partitioning off a part of two reading rooms. The Boys' and Girls' Department was moved to Connaught Branch to make space for the catalogue department. A shed was built on the back of the building to store storm windows and caretaker's equipment. Every available bit of wall space was used for book shelving. Shelving was built across the west windows. Radiators not urgently needed were removed to make space for more books.

1959

LIBRARY RESOURCES

1909 Books only (est.) 2,500

1959 Books 124,453

(including 47,749
children's books)

Periodicals 299

Films (owned) 281

Films (on loan) 156

Filmstrips 85

Recordings 2,188

Film projectors 4

Filmstrip projector 1

Portable record players 2



*Mrs. M. M. Gurney, daughter
of the first chairman, Canon Hill,
cutting the 50th anniversary cake.*

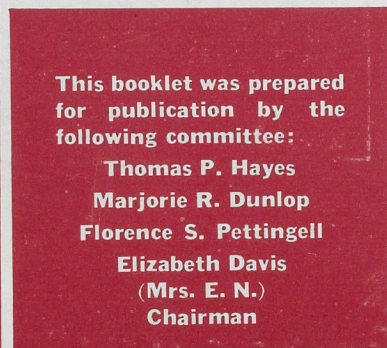
MILESTONES IN T

March 27, 1908—First meeting of Regina Public Library Board appointed by City Council.

January, 1909—Library opened in three rooms on the south-west corner of the second floor of new City Hall. **1909**—Board purchased a site in the 1900 block Lorne Street for a library building. **May 11, 1912**—Present Central Library opened—\$50,000 gift from Mr. Andrew Carnegie. **June 30, 1912**—Library building damaged by cyclone. Mr. Carnegie gave \$10,000 for extensive repairs. **1913**—First branch libraries opened—Eastern Branch on Market Square—Albert Branch at Robinson Street and Eighth Avenue. **1918**—Eastern Branch closed—patrons being served from Central. **1919**—Scott Street Branch opened at Sixth Avenue and Scott Street (now Broder Street) in rented frame house. **1920**—Eastern Branch moved to Winnipeg and Thirteenth and renamed Prince of Wales Branch. **1921**—The Local Council of Women—Fine and Applied Arts Committee placed a collection of paintings on extended loan in the library. **1924**—Name of Scott Street Branch was changed to Eastview. **1927**—Albert Branch building moved to Wallace Street and Fourth Avenue and renamed Eastview Branch replacing Scott Branch; Albert Branch replaced with new brick building. **1929**—Prince of Wales Branch moved to Fourteenth and Broder Street. **1929**—Beginning of depression years which placed tremendous pressure on the Library with increased circulation (75%) and decreased expenditures. **1930**—Connaught Branch built at Elphinstone Street and Thirteenth Avenue. **1944**—At the request of the Library Board, City Council purchased property north of present site to Twelfth Avenue for \$12,000. **1946**—Films and records added to Central Library collection and art exhibits held in the library. **1948**—The Board asked for site in Civic Centre for new building. **1949**—Public Film Showings commenced in the

TORY OF THE REGINA PUBLIC LIBRARY

library. **1950**—The Board asked City Council to submit a money bylaw of \$200,000 to citizens to cover cost of remodelling the present Central building and the building of a new wing. Refused as large expenditures were required for water supply. **1954**—First booktrailer put into service with headquarters in Albert Branch basement. Service given to Pasqua Street North, Imperial and Lakeview areas. **1955**—The Board asked City Council to reserve the northern end of the city block bounded by Smith Street, Twelfth Avenue and Lorne Street for the proposed new Central Library building; paintings on loan from the Regina Council of Women were transferred to the Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery. **1956**—Mr. Horace S. Moses, Topeka, Kansas, was appointed to the Board as library consultant to assist with the planning of a new Central Library building; Mr. Moses was given a hearing before City Council; "Report of a Survey of the Regina Public Library for the Regina Public Library Board with Recommendations for Reorganization and Indications of need for a new Central Building," by Horace S. Moses, was received; brief presented to City Council requesting money bylaw (\$1,-210,000) for a new Central Library. Council deferred bylaw; Eastview Branch closed. Area given Booktrailer service. **1957**—The Board requested permission to erect a temporary building near the present Central building to meet the urgent need for more space. This was refused; due to severe overcrowding, Central Boys' and Girls' Department was moved to the main floor of Connaught Branch—Connaught adult books were moved to the basement; Booktrailer No. 2 was added giving service at seven stops: Rosemont, River Heights, Hillsdale, Gladmer, East Regina, Dewdney West and College East. **1958**—Booktrailer service commenced at Broadway East; two \$500 scholarships were offered to supplement the provincial government scholarship for library training. **1959**—Booktrailer No. 3 put into service. Extension built to Albert Branch for Booktrailer Headquarters; Booktrailer service commenced on Broad Street to give service to children in downtown area until a new Central Library was built; noon hour record concerts presented in the library and Victoria Park in co-operation with the Parks Department; the Library's Golden Jubilee was celebrated at a reception during Canadian Library Week; the J. R. C. Honeyman loan scholarship of \$1,000 was set up replacing the two offered in 1958.



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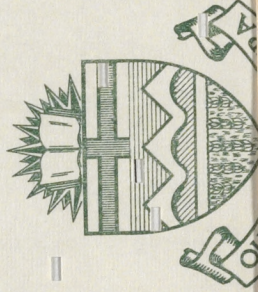
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The first 50, 1909-1959.

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